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AUG 20 REC'D

National Veterinary Stockpile:

Ready for Animal Disease Emergencies

As part of its safeguarding mission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) coordinates the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) program.



The NVS is our Nation's repository of veterinary "countermeasures"—animal vaccines, antivirals, supplies, equipment, and response support services. Simply put, it exists to provide States, tribes, and territories with the tools they need to combat an animal disease outbreak. In an animal health emergency, the response must be fast and well coordinated to keep disease from spreading. The NVS can dispatch—within 24 hours—critical resources animal health officials need onsite.



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With NVS support, officials can set up immediate measures to contain and eradicate the disease, minimizing the animal losses and other economic damages that result from an outbreak. In addition to providing resources and materials when outbreaks occur, NVS personnel help States, tribes, and territories prepare for future outbreaks through careful advance planning, training, and exercises. Our goal is to make sure that, when faced with an emergency, our partners understand the process for rapidly requesting, receiving, processing, and distributing NVS resources so responders get help quickly.



What We Offer

Equipment and Supplies

The NVS offers many resources to address animal health threats during disease outbreaks. These resources (i.e., veterinary countermeasures) include:

- 1) **personal protective equipment** for on-the-ground responders to guard against infection and other onsite hazards;
- 2) **decontamination supplies** to inactivate pathogens;
- 3) **vaccines** to quickly protect livestock and poultry at risk of infection;
- 4) **vaccination equipment and supplies** (such as needles and syringes) to effectively immunize large numbers of livestock and poultry;
- 5) **animal handling equipment**, including corrals, to safely contain and restrain livestock;
- 6) **equipment for emergency euthanasia and depopulation** of animals;
- 7) **assistance in securing outside companies**, if needed, to provide trained personnel and additional equipment for large-scale depopulation, disposal, and decontamination work.

Training and Exercises

We help States, tribes, and territories plan for potential disease outbreaks to support a smooth response should they need NVS resources. For example, we offer a planning guide, a plan template, and other tools that explain in detail what logistical factors to consider when preparing for an agricultural emergency. Our staff can also share their first-hand experiences and expertise in handling various disease situations, which further aids the planning process.

Once a plan is in place, our staff conduct logistical training and exercises with NVS partners per the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program. These exercises give participants an opportunity to:

- learn in detail about the NVS program and available resources;
- test their abilities to request, receive, process, and distribute NVS equipment, supplies, and vaccines;
- clarify roles and responsibilities to aid in a logistics operation; and
- identify resource gaps and improve response plans before outbreaks occur.



Contact Us

To learn more, visit our Web site at

<http://nvs.aphis.usda.gov> or email us at nvs@aphis.usda.gov.

You can also reach our staff by phone at
(301) 851-3595 or fax at **(301) 734-7817**.

In an emergency, please call our 24/7 hotline:
1-800-940-6524.